

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method for making a wound dressing having an absorbent core, the method comprising the steps of:

inserting a plurality of projection elements into a distal surface of the absorbent core, said projection elements extending into the absorbent core a distance into a thickness thereof and being suitably heated to impart their shape in the absorbent core;

removing said projection elements from said absorbent core to form receptacles therein; and

inserting a discrete portion of at least one absorbent material into each of said receptacles.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said projection elements are arranged in a random pattern.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said projection elements are arranged in a preselected pattern such that the receptacles are generally equally spaced from one another.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the absorbent material is deposited into each of the receptacles in a predetermined amount depending on the location of the respective receptacle relative to the central portion of the absorbent core.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of compacting the absorbent material in the receptacles by said projection elements.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of connecting a liquid impervious, vapor permeable backing layer to the absorbent core that extends over at least the distal surface of the absorbent core.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the absorbent core is a hydrophilic polymeric foam.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for forming a plurality of receptacles in an absorbent core of a wound dressing, the method comprising the steps of:

inserting a plurality of projection elements into a distal surface of the absorbent core, said projection elements extending into a thickness of the absorbent core; and

removing said projection elements from said absorbent core to form receptacles therein;

inserting a plurality of discrete portions of at least one absorbent material into each of said receptacles.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the absorbent core is a hydrophilic polymeric foam.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for forming a plurality of receptacles in an absorbent core of a wound dressing, the method comprising the steps of:

placing a plurality of projection elements transversely along a distal surface of the absorbent core, said projection elements extending into a distance short of an entire thickness of the absorbent core and being suitably heated to impart their shape in the absorbent core; and

removing said projection elements from said absorbent core to form a plurality of transverse channels defining receptacles disposed along the distal surface of the absorbent core;

inserting a plurality of discrete portions of at least one absorbent material into each of said receptacles.

12. (Canceled)